

DETECTIVE COMICS

**"BATGIRL'S
COSTUME
CUT-UPS!"**

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

JAN.
NO. 371
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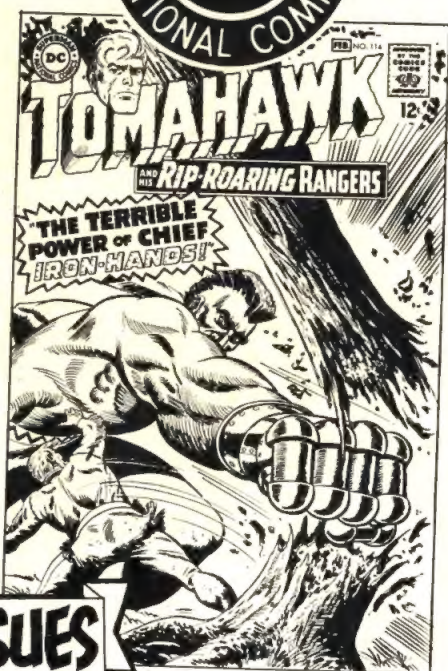
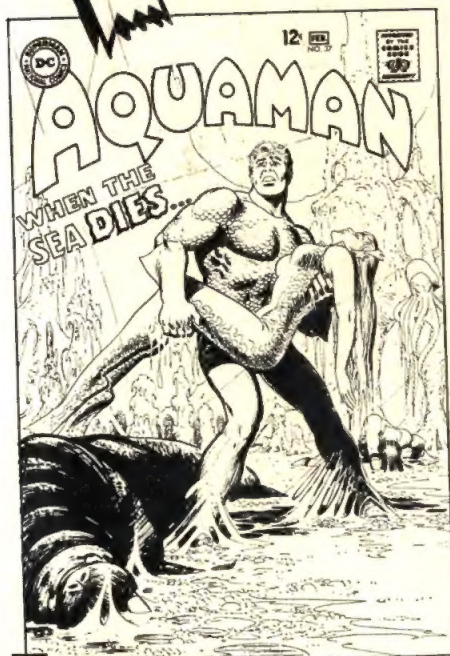


BATGIRL--
GET OVER HERE--
HELP US! WE'VE GOT A
PROBLEM!

I HAVE A
BIGGER ONE--
A RUN IN MY
TIGHTS!

INFANTINO
ANDERSON

THE DRAMA AND THE POWER OF



Don't MISS these ISSUES

BATMAN

With **ROBIN** THE BOY WONDER

WHEN IS A WOMAN A WOMAN? EVERY MOMENT OF THE DAY --AND NIGHT! EVEN **BATGIRL** DURING HER MOST HECTIC MOMENTS--WHEN SHE IS BATTLING CRIMINALS--IS ALWAYS CONSCIOUS OF HER APPEARANCE! SHOULD HER COSTUME BE RIPPED, HER FACE SMEARED, A BOOTHEEL LOST---AND HER CONCERN BOOMERANGS AGAINST HER! AND YET BEING FEMININE CAN SOMETIMES BE TURNED TO AN ADVANTAGE, AS SHE DEMONSTRATES TO **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** IN----

"BATGIRL'S COSTUME CUT-UPS!"

BY THE TIME **BATGIRL** PRETTIES HERSELF UP FOR THIS BRAWL--

IT'LL BE ALL OVER!



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AS A WORKING GIRL WILL, BARBARA (BATGIRL) GORDON IS WINDOW-SHOPPING ONE EVENING IN GOTHAM CITY WHEN---

LOOK-- UNIFORMED MEN ON BIKES-- KICKING A BALL DOWN THE STREET!

I'VE NEVER SEEN A GAME LIKE THAT BEFORE!

SOUNDS LIKE THE BREAK I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!

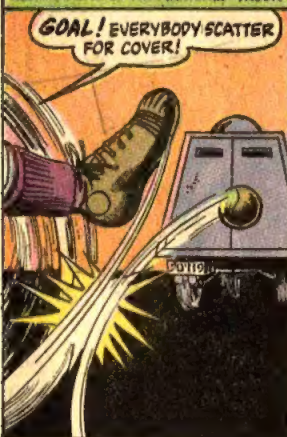
THEY'RE PLAYING RADBALL, A SOCCER-ON-WHEELS SPORT PLAYED IN AUSTRIA--

THIS COULD BE THE SPORTS SPOILERS GANG THAT'S BEEN USING SPORTS GIMMICKS TO ROB HERE IN GOTHAM CITY!



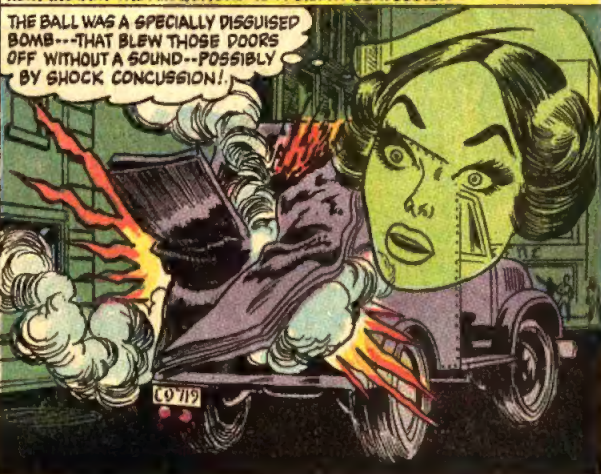
A BOOTED FOOT LACES INTO THE BALL--DRIVING IT TOWARD THE REAR DOORS OF AN ARMORED TRUCK--

GOAL! EVERYBODY SCATTER FOR COVER!



NEXT INSTANT THE AIR QUIVERS TO A SILENT CONCUSSION---

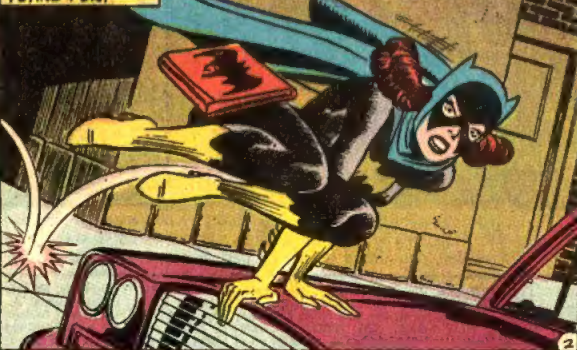
THE BALL WAS A SPECIALLY DISGUISED BOMB--THAT BLEW THOSE DOORS OFF WITHOUT A SOUND--POSSIBLY BY SHOCK CONCUSSION!

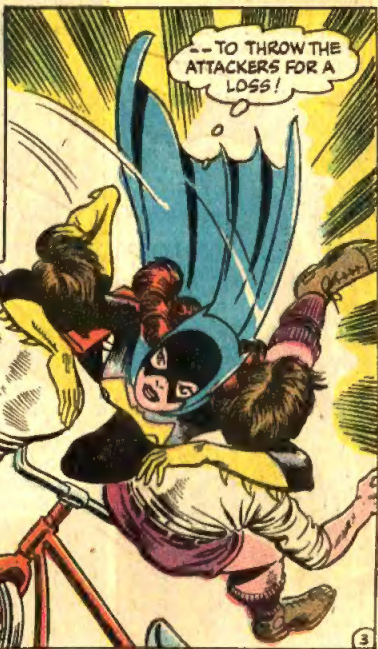
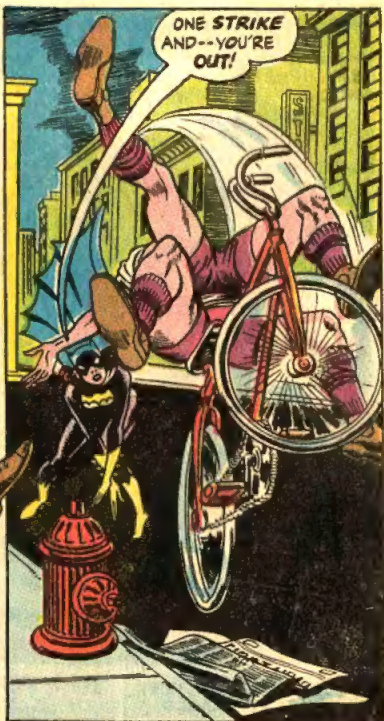
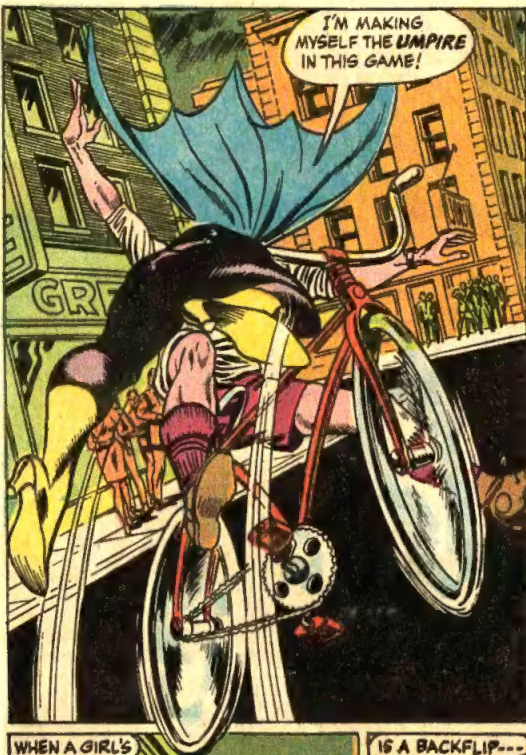


WITH EVERY EYE FOCUSED ON THE RADBALL ROBBERS-- NO ONE NOTICES A GRIM GIRL IN THE SHADOWS AS SHE MOVES SWIFTLY---



THE FOLLOWING MOMENT, THE DOMINOED PAREDOLL ERUPTS INTO FLYING FURY---





CAUGHT UNAWARES, A RIDERLESS BIKE
CAROMS INTO THE MASKED MAIDEN--



OH!!

THAT PEDAL--
MOVING MY HEAD-
PIECE OFF CENTER!

AND AS ANY GIRL WILL---



THERE--THAT
STRAIGHTENS IT
OUT!

A MOMENTARY PAUSE THAT LEAVES BARBARA
WITH A KICK COMING---



OH!!--SERVES ME RIGHT-
FOR BEING MORE CONCERNED
WITH MY APPEARANCE---
THAN THOSE RADBALL
ROBBERS...

UPENDED, HER ATHLETIC BODY
PERFORMS A BACKWARD
SOMERSAULT---

WHAT A FOOL THING TO DO!
NOW THOSE RADBALL ROBBERS
WILL MAKE THEIR GETAWAY---



---AND
I DON'T HAVE MY
BAT-BIKE
TO GO
AFTER THEM!

THEN--OUT OF THE NIGHT A MOTOR THROBS TO FULL POWER AS THE BAT-
MOBILE COMES STREAKING ONTO THE SCENE---



OUR RADAR UNIT
PICKED UP THE DISTUR-
BANCE, BATMAN--AND
THERE IT IS!

AT LAST,
ROBIN! WE'VE
CAUGHT UP TO THE
SPORTS SPOILERS
DECKED OUT LIKE
RADBALL
PLAYERS!

QUICK--TAKE
THE WHEEL!

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

Mattel's new M-16 Marauder

If you think this gun looks great, wait'll you hear it!



WOW! Here's the most authentic-looking and sounding rifle you've ever seen!

Just pull back the cocking lever and this amazing gun is ready to fire. Brap! You can squeeze off single shots. Brra-a-a-ap! Or short bursts.

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So get on target. Get Mattel's new M-16 rifle. It's the greatest!



See and hear Mattel's M-16 Marauder at your nearest toy store today.

BATMAN'S HOT-LINE

Dear Editor:

Batman always was and always will be a detective at heart. Costumed crooks and alien monsters and "camp" dialogue suited him like a strait-jacket. I patiently waited for the time when the Caped Crusader would forget about the teen scene and go back to the cops-and-robbers sequence, so rarely used in today's super-powered, mad-dictatorshipped, over-dramatized comics world.

Then, lo and behold, *Detective* 366—and from the cover I knew something had changed. Gone was the ugly "starring Batman and Robin" plaque. Gone were boastful, campy blurbs. In its stead the eerie scene with its overtone of black smacked of a good old detective story, one in which I could pit my wits against those of the writer. I was not let down. The tale virtually reeked of mystery, and Infantino's pencils coupled with thick and dark Greene inks merely added to the mood. *Batman's* "will" was definitely a challenge, one deliberately posed for the reader to think over in time for the following month's installment.

When that time came, I still couldn't figure it out. I caught the "round-robin" clue, but didn't know what to do with it. Then came issue 367, which succeeded ultimately in bringing a magnificent story to its logical conclusion. *Batman* and *Robin* earned whatever gains they made, instead of having them heaped on them by a gracious camp plot. *Robin* truly scaled a wall instead of defying gravity and "walking it".

The author of the story left hardly a clue as to his own identity, as far as I could tell. Usually the title will hint of Fox's compound humor or Broome's seriousness. But, after considering both installments, I must pin the medal on Broome. For one, there were no puns, which is Fox's forte. For two, the reader was asked to figure out the will, which is clearly a Broome characteristic. For three, and in conclusion, the "Hi...there...Bruce" of the awakening *Robin* on page 9 of the second part sounded remarkably like *Pieface's* awakening "Helloo Dere" in *Green Lantern* 47, written by Broome.

There seemed to be one inconsistency in the story, which hardly marred the enjoyment, but still sticks out. The way I saw it, each of the foursome to be revenged upon was to be killed by the other, and each killer would die only after he had doomed the next in line. What I mean is, Commissioner Gordon would die via poison dart through Bruce Wayne, but he wouldn't die until an hour later, giving him sufficient time to doom Robler. However, in the case of Fred Tinney, had he picked up the receiver he would have died INSTANTLY, not giving him time to kill Bruce Wayne. It was mentioned that he wouldn't have died if he had "been tagged to carry on the round-robin killings", but this is inconsistent to the other round-robin murders. Each of the others didn't rely on outside intervention to save the next-to-be-killer, so why did Tinney?

—Dan Madaj, Warren, Mich.

(Your trio of clues pinpointing John Broome as the author of the round-robin story were not as sharp as you figured. To be blunt about it, Gardner Fox "dood" it. On the other hand, we evidently weren't as sharp in making it clear that each of the marked men wouldn't die until after he had an opportunity to doom the follow-up victim.—Editor)

Dear Editor:

I love it! I love it! You promised us a great *Batman* mystery in the grand old tradition, and boy, did you deliver!

I am speaking, of course, of the two-issue saga that began as the "Round-Robin Death Threats" and concluded, a month later, as the finest *Baterary* master-

piece in a long time.

I'm not even going to discuss the entire story and its minute discrepancies. I'd just like to point out practices I'd like to see continued:

First, the cover. I was happy to see the *Detective* logo lengthened. And you even resurrected the little *Batman* symbol that appeared so very long ago. Art-wise, keep up the tremendous work on your *Batman* and *Detective* covers—they stand out as tops in originality.

Second, you brought back non-camp humor! I'm thinking of page ten, issue 367, where *Batman* enters the offices of the electric company and quickly deduces *Steinmetz* as the alias used by Hastings. After explaining this to the adoring secretary, the latter sighs and says, "You make it sound so easy!" Terrific touch!

One final commendation: *Batman* captured the villain in the daytime! (And thanks for eliminating the final capture-and-jailing-scene, which is a cliché in itself.)

Anyway, I wish you luck. It's going to be pretty darn difficult to beat the unbeatable. For the umpteenth time in the last thirty years, you fellas have reached a peak in comic performance!

—Loren Lieberthal, New York, N.Y.

Dear Editor:

If anyone asks me where the action is, I'm going to tell them to read *Detective Comics*! Lately, (and *Detective* 367 was certainly no exception) *Batman* and *Robin* have been involved in more knock-and-sock-'em than you'd think possible in 12 or so pages.

I think your little explanatory dialogue (page 8) in the form of hands is so popular "he" seems almost like a character. How about giving him a name? I've always called him "Helpful Hands". (Whenever I see those long pointing fingers, I say "There's ol' Helpful Hands!")

Your cover posed an interesting problem of sorts for us cover-lovers/jigsaw buffs. I wanted to cut the pieces to find *Batman's* would-be killer as you suggested, but I didn't want to ruin the cover for my collection. So I bought two copies—which is probably what you intended in the first place!

—Frank Tower, Eustace, Tex.

(Two? True! —Editor)

Dear Editor:

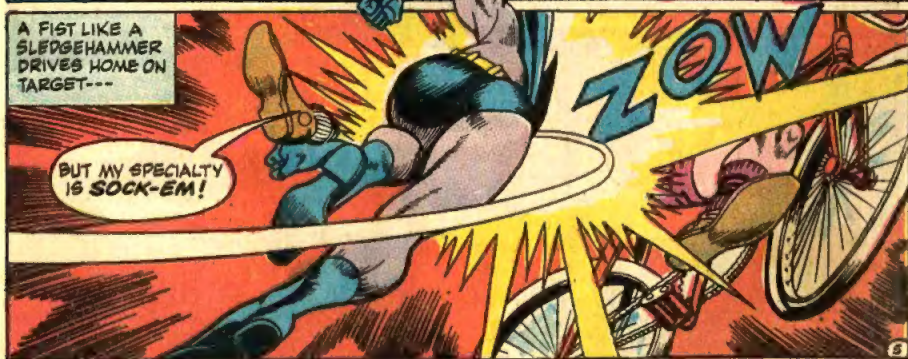
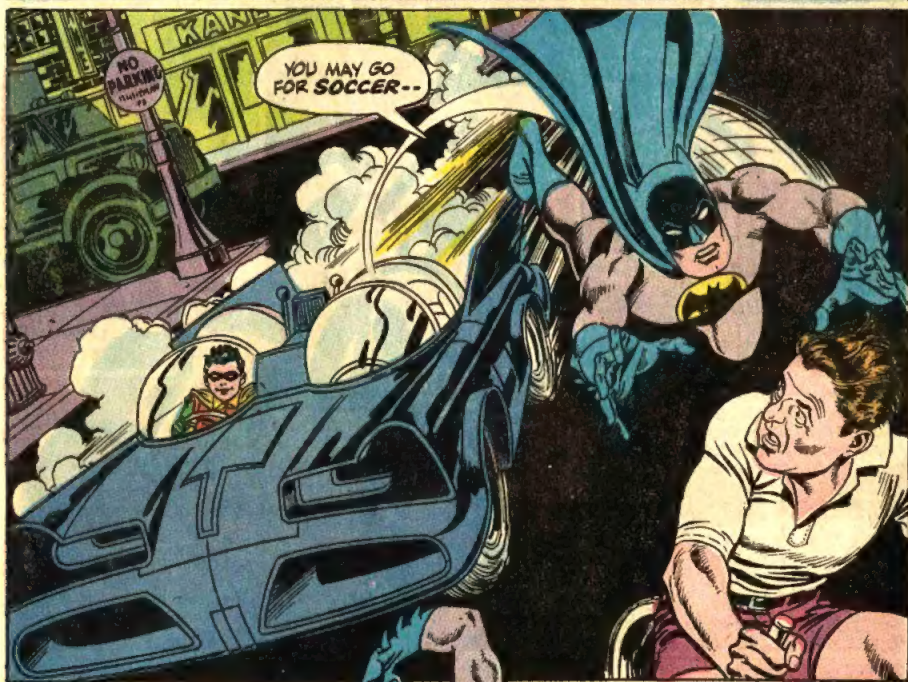
"Enigma of the Elongated Evil-doer" is about the best, tantalizing *EM* tale I've read in any of the episodes of the amazing super-sleuth. However, I had my doubts that *EM* was really interested in the case because there was an absence of the ever-noticeable twitching of his nose.

Gardner Fox again has made the reader think and use his noodle to figure out who did what? why? and how? Of course, as the story continues, the plot thickens, and the preceding questions are answered.

But here I must intervene due to the cause of Mrs. Sue Dibny. As much as Sue and Ralph travel around there seems to be no end of adventures for the traveling couple. Then the Dibnys reach a nice, quiet, skiing resort and before they even get to unpack their bags the sheriff greets them warmly to another mystery. So Sue is left holding Ralph's coat and left standing in the sidelines. And usually if the mystery is slightly confusing and puzzling, *EM* is racking his brains for a solution which could put him in a lousy mood. Even Sue couldn't get any sense out of him as depicted on page 7, panel 4.

—Thomas L. Thomas, Kansas City, Kans.

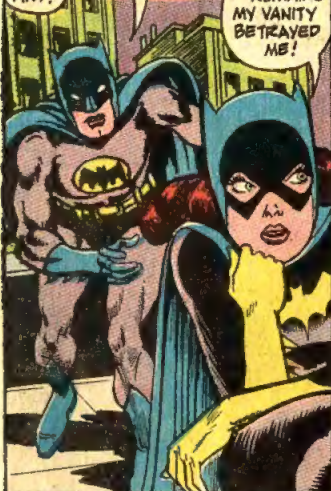
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AFTER THEIR PRISONER HAS BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE POLICE---

BATGIRL, YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY BE AS DEPRESSED AS YOU LOOK! IF YOU HADN'T DELAYED THOSE CROOKS LONG ENOUGH, WE WOULDN'T HAVE CAUGHT ANY!

THANKS FOR THE KIND WORDS, BATMAN... BUT THE FACT REMAINS MY VANITY BETRAYED ME!



JUST CHALK IT UP TO EXPERIENCE, BATGIRL! YOU'LL LEARN TO ADJUST TO THESE EMERGENCIES!

AND A SECRET IT SHALL REMAIN!

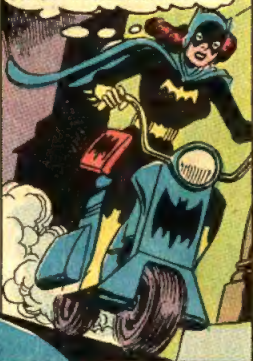
CAN WE GIVE YOU A LIFT-- OOPS, I ALMOST SAID 'HOME'-- BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THAT IS!



THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, THE MYSTERY MAIDEN CRUISES THROUGH GOTHAM CITY ON HER BAT-BIKE---

JUST AS SOMEONE WHO'S HAD A CAR ACCIDENT SHOULD DRIVE A CAR AGAIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO OVERCOME ANY FEAR ABOUT IT--

SO I'M DETERMINED TO FIND SOME CROOKS TO FIGHT--PROVE I CAN OVERCOME MY FEMININE INSTINCTS BY SHEER CONCENTRATION!



IT WASN'T PERSONAL VANITY THAT MADE ME ADJUST MY HEADGEAR--IT WAS AN INSTINCTIVE FEMALE REACTION!

IT'S ALMOST DAWN--- AND I STILL HAVEN'T FOUND ANY CROOKS TO PROVE MY POINT!



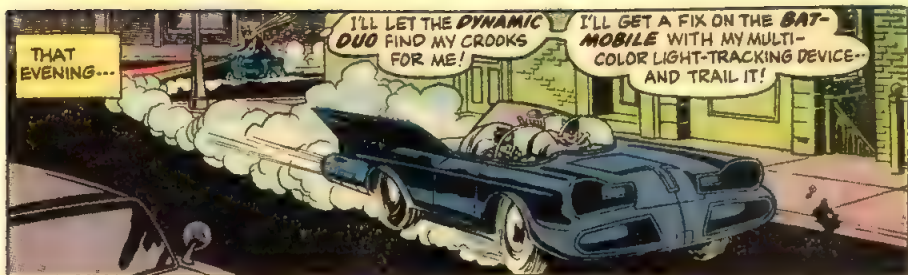
NEXT DAY, IN THE GOTHAM CITY LIBRARY, WHERE BARBARA GORDON IS HEAD LIBRARIAN---

HMMM! BATMAN AND ROBIN DIDN'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE FINDING CROOKS LAST NIGHT!

THEY BAGGED TWO BANK ROBBERS, THREE HOLDUP MEN--AND HALF A DOZEN JEWELRY THIEVES! AND I CAME HOME--EMPTY-HANDED!

BUT AT LEAST-- THEIR SUCCESS HAS GIVEN ME AN IDEA!





THAT EVENING...

I'LL LET THE **DYNAMIC DUO** FIND MY CROOKS FOR ME!

I'LL GET A FIX ON THE **BAT-MOBILE** WITH MY MULTI-COLOR LIGHT-TRACKING DEVICE-- AND TRAIL IT!

THE THIEF-TRAIL LEADS OUT OF THE CITY--TOWARD A **GOTHAM RIVER** SAWMILL---



OUR TIPSTER TOLD US THE **SPORTS SPOILERS** WOULD ROB THIS SAW-MILL TONIGHT!

WHAT'S TO ROB IN A SAW MILL, FOR PETE'S SAKE?

I TOOK THE TROUBLE TO INVESTIGATE, **ROBIN!** THE SAWMILL ALSO HAS A METAL WORKSHOP WHERE PRECIOUS METALS ARE SHAPED INTO SPORTS-CONTEST PRIZES AND TROPHIES!

SO THE CROOKS ARE AFTER **GOLD** INGOTS AND BARS OF **SILVER!**



ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SAWMILL---

HURRY IT UP! **BATMAN AND ROBIN** ARE CLOSING IN ON US!

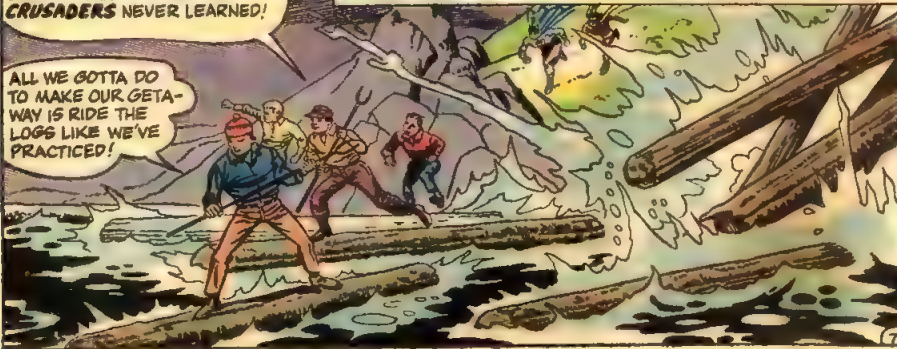
LET GO THE CHAINS! WE'VE GOT WHAT WE CAME FOR--SO LET'S LOG AWAY FROM HERE!



WITH A ROAR AND RUMBLE OF PILED LOGS SUDDENLY FREED--THE RIVER RAPIDS FILL WITH FLOATING TIMBERS---

HA! HA! THIS IS ONE SPORT THEY PLAY UP IN THE HIGH TIMBER COUNTRY THAT THE **CAPED CRUSADERS** NEVER LEARNED!

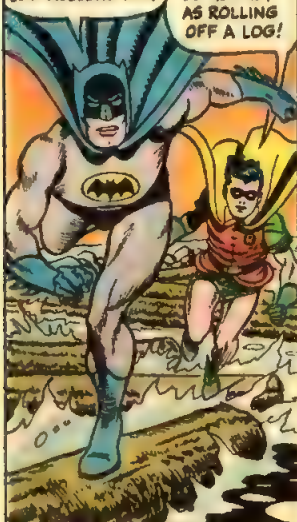
ALL WE GOTTA DO TO MAKE OUR GET-AWAY IS RIDE THE LOGS LIKE WE'VE PRACTICED!



BUT...NEXT MOMENT THE COWLED CRUSHER AND TEEN TITAN ARE ASTRIDE ROLLING LOGS---

THEY DIDN'T EXPECT US TO BE EXPERT LOG-ROLLERS TOO!

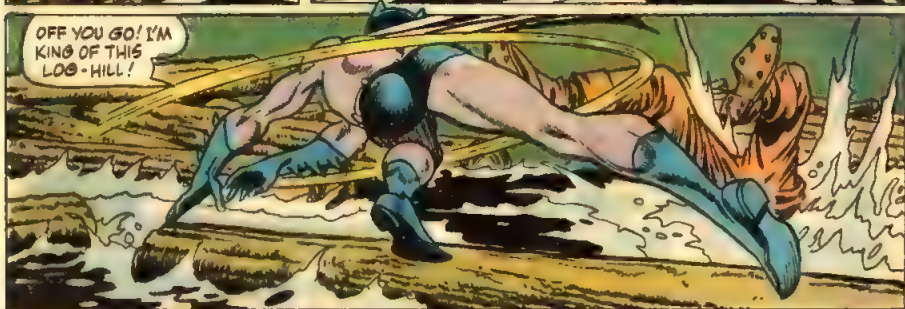
CATCHING UP TO THEM WILL BE AS EASY AS ROLLING OFF A LOG!



YOU FELLOWS LIKE GAMES SO MUCH-- HOW ABOUT A QUICK ROUND OF LOG-LEAP-FROG?

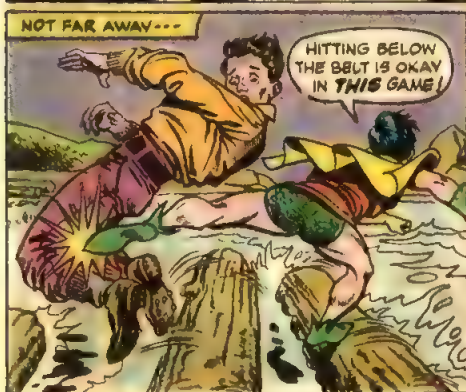


OFF YOU GO! I'M KING OF THIS LOG-HILL!



NOT FAR AWAY---

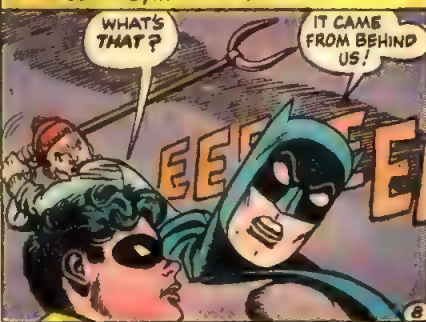
HITTING BELOW THE BELT IS OKAY IN THIS GAME!



A LOGROLLER THUG BEGINS A MURDEROUS SWING --JUST AS A SCREAM RIPS ACROSS THE THUNDER OF THE BUMPING, THUMPING LOGS---

WHAT'S THAT?

IT CAME FROM BEHIND US!



WHIRLINS AROUND QUICKLY, THE **DYNAMIC DUO** LOSES ITS BALANCE BEFORE THE DEADLY BLOW IS STRUCK---



WHILE ON THE DENSELY WOODED SHORE---



IT'S UP TO ME TO STOP THOSE CROOKS NOW!

I CAN'T RIDE ON ROLLING LOGS--THOUGH I MUST MAKE IT A POINT TO LEARN HOW!--BUT I CAN RAISE THE UNDER-WATER CHAIN-NET THAT'S USED TO RESTRAIN LOGS FROM PILING UP IN A LOG JAM!



BUT--EVEN AS BATGIRL GRIPS THE CHAIN-NET LEVER---



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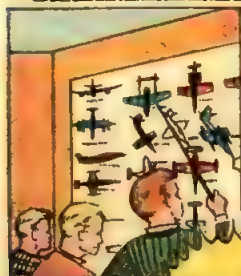
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IN REFLEX ACTION, HER GLOVED HAND LIFTS TO HER FACE ---

I'LL WIPE THE MUD OFF AND--

OH, NO-- NOT AGAIN!

THAT MOMENTARY DELAY ALLOWED THOSE **SPORTS SPOILERS** TO ROLL PAST THE UNDERWATER HOLDING-CHAIN!

NO CHANCE TO FOLLOW THEM ON SHORE! THESE WOODS ARE TOO THICK TO DRIVE MY **BAT-BIKE** BETWEEN THE TREES!

ONCE AGAIN, A CHERRY VOICE TO DISPEL THE GLOOM---

NEXT TIME YOU SCREAM, BATGIRL-- USE IT TO WARN US OF THE DIRECTION FROM WHICH THE SNEAK ATTACK IS COMING!

YEAH! EVEN SUCH DETERMINED FIGHTERS AS WE ARE --- GET DISTRACTED BY A LADY'S SCREAM!

STOP POURING SALT IN MY WOUNDS, BOYS-- I FEEL TERRIBLE ENOUGH AS IT IS!

FOR THE NEXT FEW NIGHTS, A DETERMINED **BATGIRL** IS ON THE READY-- ONLY TO FAIL TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE **SPORTS SPOILERS**...



AND DURING THE DAY, SHE GOES ABOUT HER CHORES IN THE LIBRARY, RESOLVED THAT WHEN NEXT SHE GOES INTO **BATGIRL ACTION**---

I'LL BE A **CROOK-CATCHER** FIRST-- AND A **GLANCE-CATCHER** SECOND!



ONE CLOUDY WEEK-END MORNING, AT A RAMSHACKLE HOUSE IN A **GOTHAM CITY** SLUM SECTION---

STUFFY? YOU IN THERE?

THE DOOR'S OPEN A BIT! MAYBE THERE'S BEEN A **HAPPENIN'!**



AS THE DOOR IS SWUNG OPEN---



GREAT SCOTT! STUFFY'S BEEN SHOT!

FOR A MOMENT THE DISGUISED DUO DROPS ITS **HIPSTER** POSES AS---

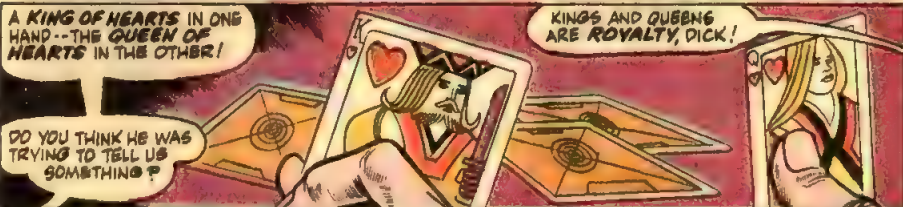
STUFFY TIPPED US OFF TO THE SPORTS SPOILERS ROBBERY AT THE SAWMILL--- AND WE CAME HERE HOPING HE HEARD SOMETHING NEW---

DICK--IN HIS HANDS!



A **KING OF HEARTS** IN ONE HAND--THE **QUEEN OF HEARTS** IN THE OTHER!

DO YOU THINK HE WAS TRYING TO TELL US SOMETHING?



KINGS AND QUEENS ARE ROYALTY, DICK!

IT ADDS UP! THERE IS A **ROYAL HAPPENING** SET FOR TONIGHT AT **GOTHAM CITY PARK**---AND IT'S FOR THE **HEART FUND!**

EVEN AS HE PASSED OUT, **STUFFY** LEFT US A MESSAGE!

HE HAD BEEN PLAYING **SOLITAIRE** WHEN--AND NOW I'M THEORIZING--SOME OF THE **SPORTS SPOILERS** BROKE IN TO 'GET' HIM FOR HAVING TIPPED US OFF ABOUT THE **SAWMILL ROBBERY!**



STILL HE WAS DETERMINED TO DO THE JOB I PAID HIM TO DO--AND SO HE GRABBED THOSE CARDS AS A MEANS OF LEAVING US A CLUE---

I FEEL A PULSE BEAT! **STUFFY'S** STILL ALIVE!

I'LL CALL FOR AN **AMBULANCE!**



AFTER AN AMBULANCE DOCTOR HAS ASSURED THEM THAT **STUFFY** WILL LIVE...

BRUCE, AREN'T YOU GOING TO THE ROYAL HAPPENING TONIGHT WITH A DATE?

WAS GOING, DICK! I'LL HAVE TO BREAK IT, AS LONG AS BATMAN HAS TO MAKE AN APPEARANCE THERE!

TOO BAD AUNT HARRIET'S NOT FEELING WELL... YOU COULD GIVE YOUR TICKETS TO HER AND ALFRED! BUT I GUESS YOU'LL THINK OF SOMEBODY ELSE TO GIVE IT TO...

THAT EVENING AT THE ROYAL HAPPENING POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON AND HIS DAUGHTER BARBARA ENJOY THE HOSPITALITY OF MILLIONAIRE BRUCE WAYNE...

IT WAS GOOD OF BRUCE TO LET US FILL IN FOR HIM!

YES, DAD! IT SHOULD BE AN EXCITING EVENING...

AND THE EXCITEMENT STARTS MOMENTS LATER WHEN SHOUTING JAI ALAI PLAYERS RUN UP FROM AN ABANDONED SUBWAY EXIT...

EVERYBODY STAY PUT!

> OHHHE THIS-- ISN'T ON-- THE PROGRAM...

SECURITY GUARDS RUSH FORWARD BUT JAI ALAI BALLS QUICKLY FELL THEM...

WE'D JUST AS SOON GET THIS OVER WITH-- WITHOUT ANY MORE TROUBLE!

BUT AT THIS CRITICAL MOMENT...

GET READY TO TURN OVER YOUR VALUABLES AS WE PASS AMONG YOU!

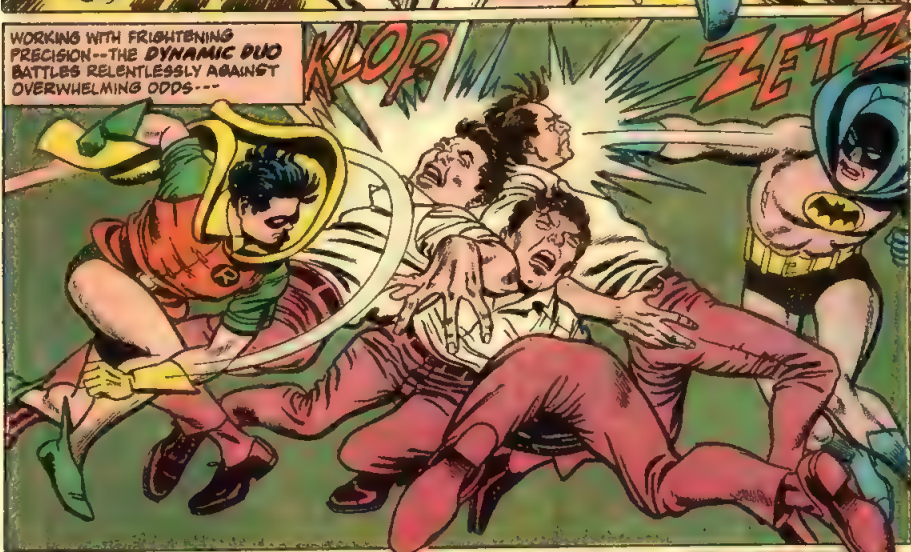
DUCK FOR COVER, FOLKS!

WE'LL HANDLE THESE SPORTS BUFFS-- BY POLISHING THEM OFF!

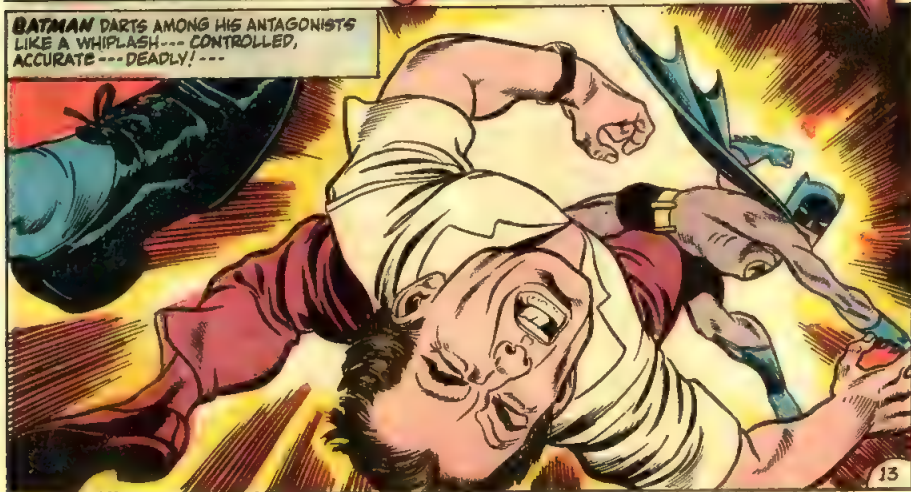
THE STEEL-MUSCLED FIGURE
OF THE MAN OF MIGHT
SMASHES INTO THE CROOKS---



WORKING WITH FRIGHTENING
PRECISION--THE DYNAMIC DUO
BATTLES RELENTLESSLY AGAINST
OVERWHELMING ODDS---



BATMAN DARTS AMONG HIS ANTAGONISTS
LIKE A WHIPLASH--- CONTROLLED,
ACCURATE --- DEADLY! ---



TO ONE SIDE, TAKING ADVANTAGE
OF THE CONFUSION---

THIS IS NOT VERY DIGNIFIED
FOR A **QUEEN VICTORIA**---

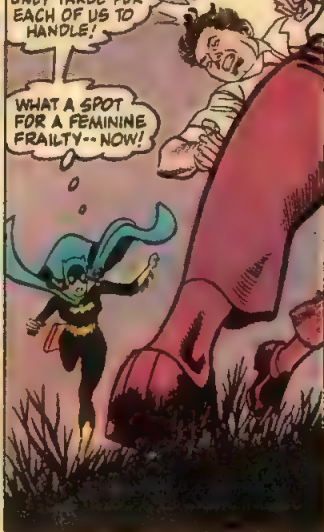
BUT I'VE BEEN SO
ANXIOUS FOR ANOTHER
CHANCE--I WORE MY **BAT-
GIRL** COSTUME UNDERNEATH!



DROPPING FROM HER COSTUME-CHANGING
PERCH, THE **DOMINED DAREDOLE**
RACES TOWARD THE BATTLE ROYAL---

I COUNT NINE
OF THEM--THAT'S
ONLY THREE FOR
EACH OF US TO
HANDLE!

WHAT A SPOT
FOR A FEMININE
FRAILTY-- NOW!



SUDDENLY **BATGIRL** SLIDES TO A HALT--
LIFTS HER LEG---

BATGIRL--
GET OVER
HERE--
HELP US!
WE'VE GOT
A PROBLEM!

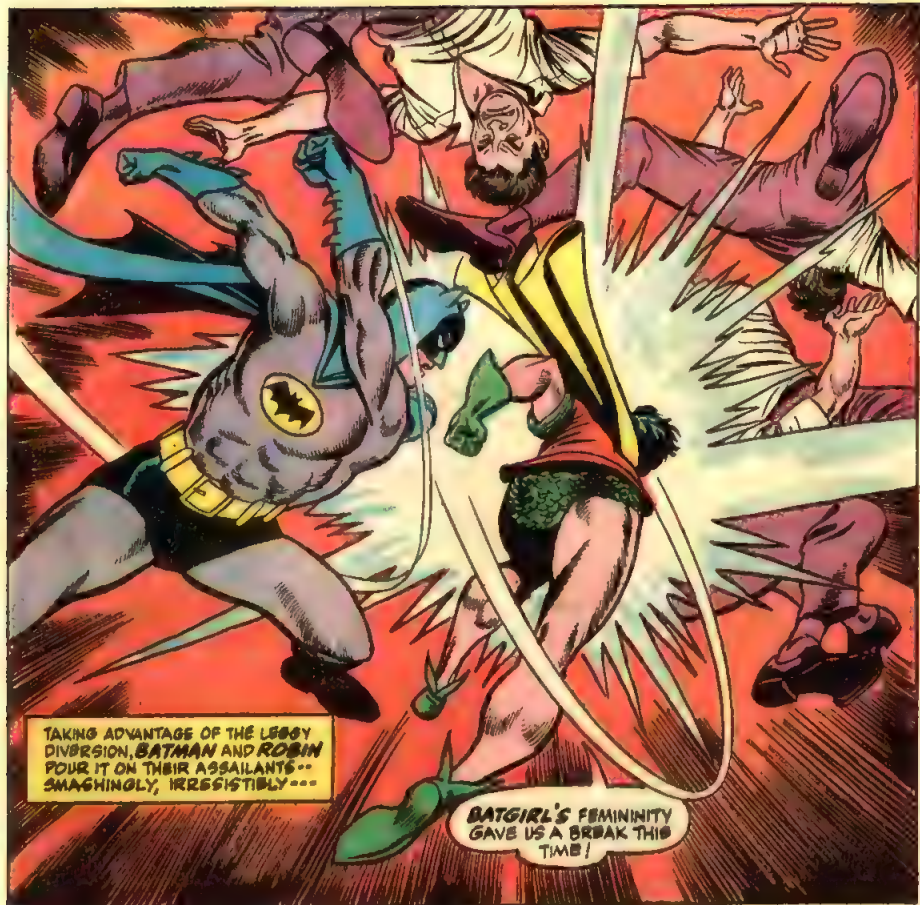
I HAVE A BIGGER
ONE--A RUN IN
MY TIGHTS!



EXTENDING HER SHAPELY LEG, SHE STUDIES THE JAGGED TEAR--WHILE
LAWBREAKER EYES STARE ADMIRINGLY---

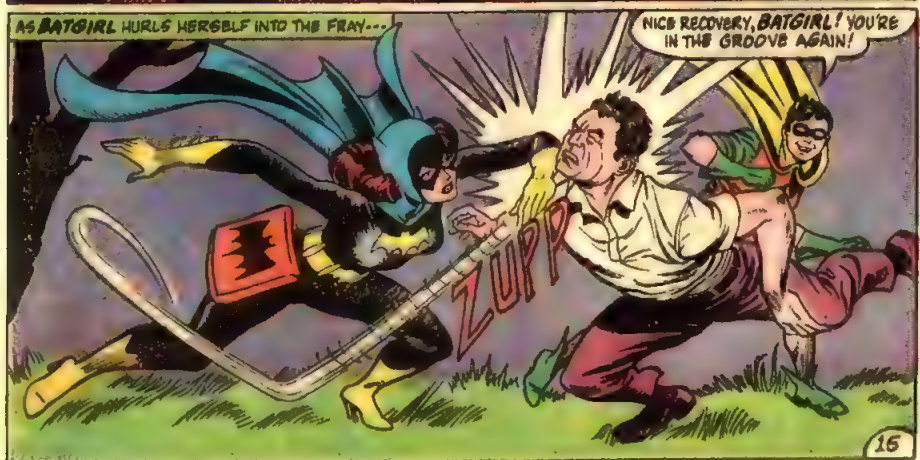
WHAT A PAIR OF
GAMS!





TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE LESBOY
DIVERSION, BATMAN AND ROBIN
POUR IT ON THEIR ASSAILANTS--
SMASHINGLY, IRRESISTIBLY---

BATGIRL'S FEMININITY
GAVE US A BREAK THIS
TIME!



AS BATGIRL HURLS HERSELF INTO THE FRAY---

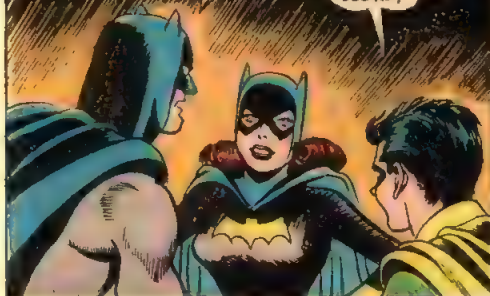
NICE RECOVERY, BATGIRL! YOU'RE
IN THE GROOVE AGAIN!

A TRIO OF FISTS DISPOSES OF THE REMAINING **SPORTS SPOILERS**...



YOU SEE, **BATGIRL**? THAT WAS ONE TIME WHERE YOU TURNED A FEMININE TRAIT TO YOUR ADVANTAGE--AND THE DIS-ADVANTAGE OF THE CRIMINALS!

IT SURE WAS LUCKY FOR **BATMAN** AND ME THAT YOU TORE YOUR TIGHTS WHEN YOU DID--OR WE MIGHT HAVE WOUND UP ON THE SHORT END OF THE SCORE!



IN HER LIBRARY HIDEAWAY, LATER THAT SAME NIGHT--

I JUST DIDN'T HAVE THE HEART TO TELL **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** THAT I TORE MY TIGHTS **DELIBERATELY**--TO GIVE ME AN EXCUSE FOR SHOWING OFF MY LEG AND DISTRACTING THOSE CROOKS!

THE FACT THAT MY FEMININE WEAKNESS BETRAYED ME SO OFTEN IN THE PAST-- I JUST **HAD** TO PROVE IT HAS ITS STRONG POINTS TOO!



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CUT THEM OUT AND FRAME THEM!

BATMAN'S HOT-LINE --EXTRA

Dear Editor:

The first issue of *Detective Comics* with DC's goo-goo checks (no typing mistake, just an insult) removed was indeed a treat. "The Round-Robin Death Threats" had the high quality of mystery, action, and art to make it about the best *Batman* story since the *New Look* began.

The disappearance of the *camp* approach enriched the story. Still, I wonder if this is good business? Many of the buyers of *Detective Comics* are children who watch *Batman* on TV and pick a comic magazine featuring *Batman* when they buy comics. When those of them who can read see an issue like the August *Detective*, they learn that the *Batman* of the comics is not the same clown they see on TV. Some of these get to like the serious *Batman*, but others may be disappointed with the magazine *Batman* and decide not to buy a *Batman* comic again, staying with only the TV show. Thus, you're taking a big risk. However, if you are willing to take the chances, I am content to enjoy the high quality magazine *Batman*.

For the first time in quite a while, you are carrying a continued *Batman* story. When most two-issue stories are printed, the story begins in one issue of a mag and carried over into the next issue of the same mag. Unlike most super-heroes nowadays, however, *Batman* has a strip belonging solely to him in more than just one mag. He has strips which are exclusively his in both *Batman* and *Detective* comics. So why do you cling to the custom of carrying the final half of a two-part story in the same title as the preceding one? Like this, it takes a month or a month and a half for readers to see the following part. Why keep them in suspense so long?

I would like to show you how the time-span between the parts of a continued *Batman* story can be shortened. (In the following sentences, I am never talking about *80-Page Giants* when I mention an issue of *Batman*.) Four times a year (January, April, July, and October issues) *Detective* follows the previous *Batman* (December, March, June, and September issues) by about five weeks and precedes the following *Batman* (February, May, August and November issues) by about one week. Four times a year (February, May, August, and November issues) *Detective* follows the previous *Batman* (February, May, August and November issues) by approximately three weeks and precedes the following *Batman* (March, June, September, and December issues) by approximately three weeks. Four times a year (March, June, September, and December issues) *Detective* follows the previous issue of *Batman* (March, June, September, and December issues) by around one week and precedes the following issue of *Batman* (May, August, November, and February issues) by around five weeks.

The best time to carry continued *Batman* stories would be when *Batman* and *Detective* are put on sale one week apart. Start the story in the first of the mags to come out and conclude the story in the next of the mags to come out. By planning two-part *Batman* stories so that the first part is published in either *Batman* or *Detective* and the story is finished a week later in the other, there would be a much shorter wait between parts which could be managed for very few heroes other than *Batman*, the readers would be more satisfied and continued stories could be tried more often. With all these advantages, this idea is one which ought to receive a bit of editorial consideration.

—Samuel Herskovitz, Cleveland, Ohio.

(Consideration it has already had. Thus, The November *Detective* laid the groundwork for a follow-up (rather than a "continued") story in the December *Batman*. Your idea is an interesting as well as a meritorious one, and while it presents complications we

will probably pursue it further.—Editor)

Dear Editor:

I should have known! If I remember correctly, my last letter (written in a fit of energy circa *Detective* 356) was a gobbledegook of suggestions on that noble subject dear to the hearts of all *Batmaniacs*, "What You Guys Are Doing Wrong and What Can Be Done to Correct This", for which I was justly chastised by Ye-Not-So-Old-Editor. Although some of this criticism is still valid I decided to write this letter as a surrender note, for I have discovered a *Great Truth*: no matter how much fumbling and bumbling you do, in the end your stories are better than ever!

"Great Zott!" quoth you. "Has the Great Dissenter finally flipped his non-conforming wig?" Not hardly. Just as I was about to despair of your ever getting out of your hopelessly *camp* rut, I get hit with a protest-ending triple play, from *Batgirl* to *Detective* 366 to *Detective* 367!

I sincerely hope that these stories set the editorial policy for years to come; the *Gotham Gangbuster* is no longer a costumed clown buried beneath a pile of unbelievable *Bat-gadgets*, but is once more *The Batman*, creature of the night and nemesis of crime. I for one applaud his coming.

The fact that *Robin* solved the \$10.66 clue sixty times faster than I, didn't spoil the story for me one bit.

—R.L. Thomas, Capron, Ill.

Dear Editor:

I am a fan of those marvel-ous comics you call *Brand I*, but the other day I suspiciously picked up a *Brand ECHH Detective*. The cover was cool, without unnecessary details or all those cover blurbs cluttering it up, and the title was "Where There's A Will —etc.", not something like "The Slayings Sinister".

Do you mean to say that *Batman* is not just a kid, and without some far-out powers!?! And he is not a little poor boy? And he has a Butler?! that gets paid!?!? And his Aunt isn't always ill (which makes him feel terrible when he goes out on a case)!? It's a good thing *Batman* doesn't spend two-thirds of the story's content as Bruce living it up with the gang or at old sickly Auntie's bedside.

How is it that *Batman* and all other brand *ECHH* heroes aren't in the same city, but are all over the country? Oh, golly gee, is *Batman* lucky that the police force, the newspapers, and the whole public in general, save one muscle-bound-pea-brain, don't hate his guts.

Hey, wait a minute! If *Brand I* has all these faults and *Brand ECHH* (excuse me, that should be DC) doesn't... I think I'll become a DC fan!

—Jack Maples, Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

Dear Editor:

I have been reading and collecting comics for many years now and my collection has grown extremely large. Every time I buy some comics I always find that I must rearrange my comics because my present arrangement proved inadequate to hold my new comics. In my arranging I have found alphabetical order impossible because of its wasted room. I appeal to you (or anyone else for that matter) for a possible solution to my dilemma.

—Dwight Swanson, Kailua, Hawaii

(Anyone willing to set Dwight right?—Editor)

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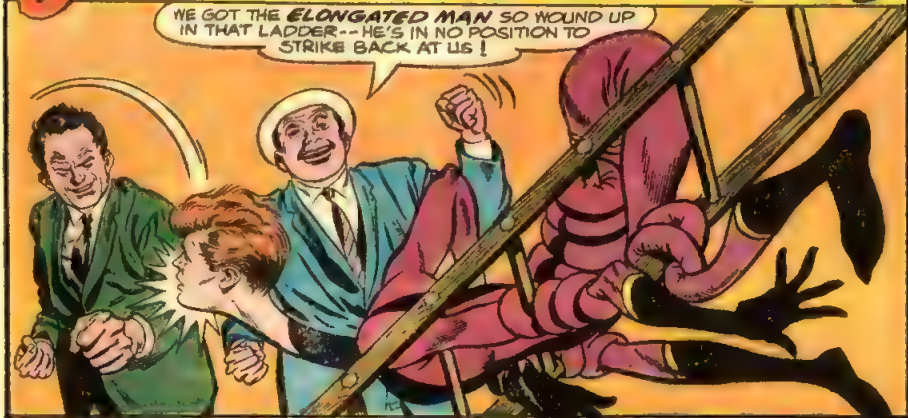
The ELONGATED Man

Art by
Mike Sekowsky
& Sid Greene

EVEN IN THE REMOTE AREAS OF CALIFORNIA WHERE STAND THE REMAINS OF SPANISH MISSIONS--RALPH (ELONGATED MAN) DIBNY SENTS A MYSTERY BAFFLING ENOUGH TO SET HIS NOSE TWITCHING! AND WHEN HE STRIVES TO UNRAVEL THAT KNOTTY PROBLEM, HE FINDS HIMSELF TANGLED UP IN A CRIMINAL MESS OF MAYHEM!

The Bellringer and the BAFFLING BONGS

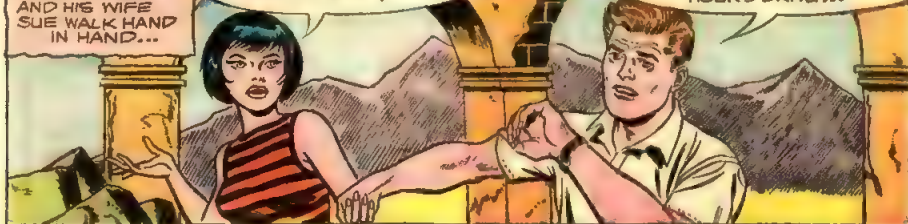
WE GOT THE ELONGATED MAN SO WOUND UP IN THAT LADDER--HE'S IN NO POSITION TO STRIKE BACK AT US!



IN THE SHADOWS OF A CALIFORNIA MISSION RUINS, RALPH DIBNY AND HIS WIFE SUE WALK HAND IN HAND...

WHAT A FASCINATING CHAPTER IN AMERICAN HISTORY THIS HALLOWED LANDMARK COULD TELL!

WE'VE NO TIME TO LISTEN, SUE! WE'RE DUE BACK IN TOWN BY FOUR O'CLOCK--AND IT'S AN HOUR'S DRIVE...



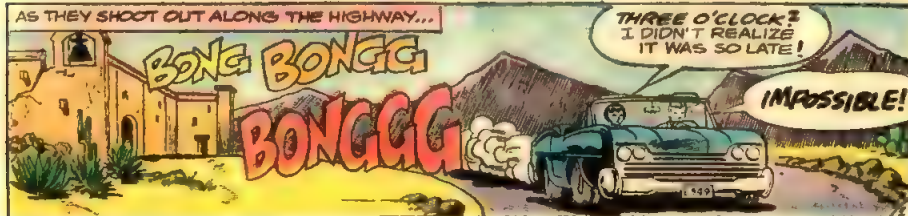
AS THEY SHOOT OUT ALONG THE HIGHWAY...

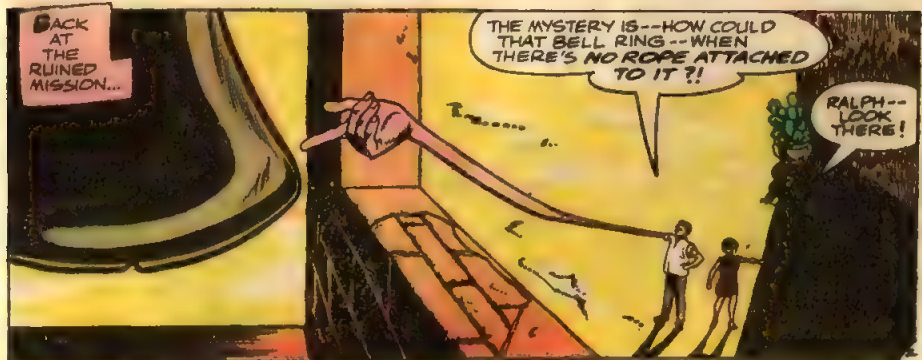
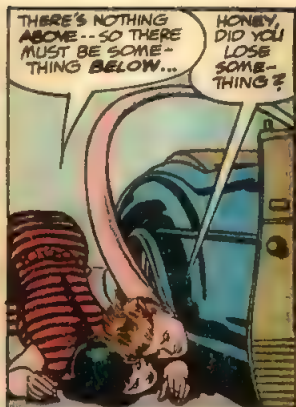
BONG BONGGG

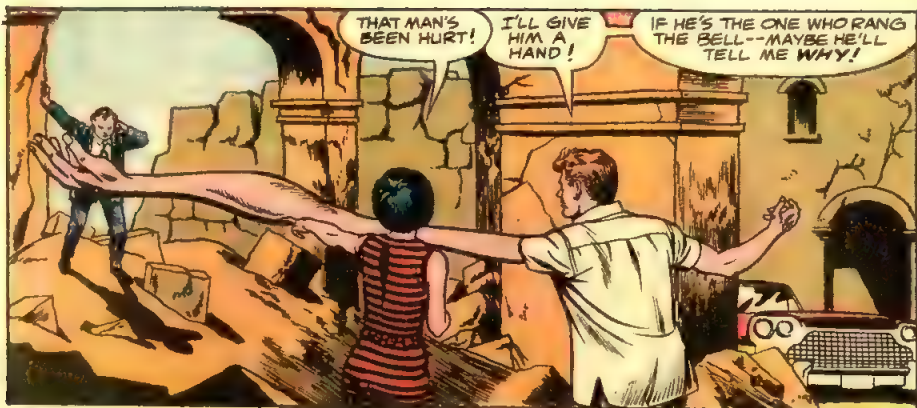
BONGGGG

THREE O'CLOCK? I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS SO LATE!

IMPOSSIBLE!



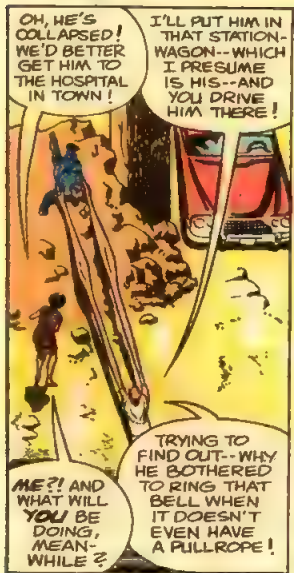




THAT MAN'S BEEN HURT!

I'LL GIVE HIM A HAND!

IF HE'S THE ONE WHO RANG THE BELL--MAYBE HE'LL TELL ME WHY!



OH, HE'S COLLAPSED! WE'D BETTER GET HIM TO THE HOSPITAL IN TOWN!

I'LL PUT HIM IN THAT STATION-WAGON--WHICH I PRESUME IS HIS--AND YOU DRIVE HIM THERE!

ME?! AND WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING, MEANWHILE?

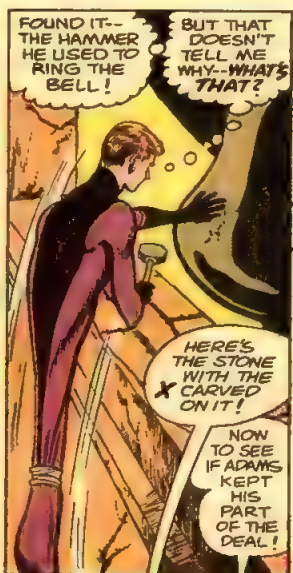
TRYING TO FIND OUT--WHY HE BOTHERED TO RING THAT BELL WHEN IT DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A PULLROPE!



AFTER SUE DRIVES OFF, RALPH CHANGES INTO HIS ELONGATED MAN COSTUME AND STARTS SNOOPING AROUND IN THE MISSION RUINS...

OBVIOUSLY, HE USED THAT FALLEN LADDER TO CLIMB UP TO THE BELL AND STRIKE IT...

BUT WHAT COULD BE SO IMPORTANT ABOUT RINGING A BELL THAT HASN'T BEEN RUNG IN YEARS?

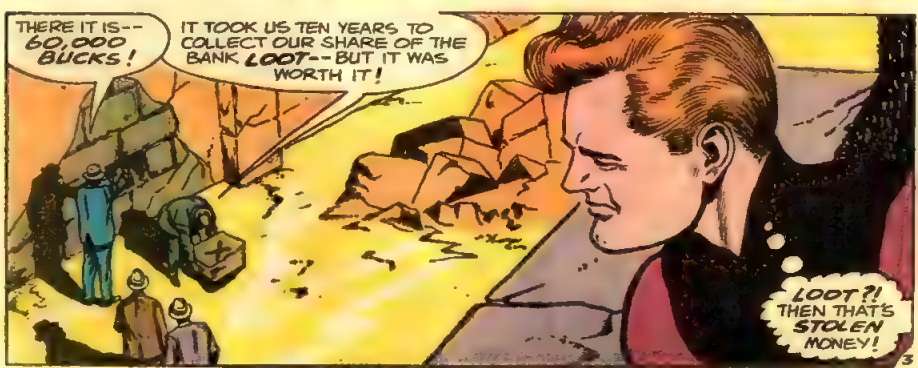


FOUND IT--THE HAMMER HE USED TO RING THE BELL!

BUT THAT DOESN'T TELL ME WHY--WHAT'S THAT?

HERE'S THE STONE WITH THE X CARVED ON IT!

NOW TO SEE IF ADAMS KEPT HIS PART OF THE DEAL!



THERE IT IS--60,000 BUCKS!

IT TOOK US TEN YEARS TO COLLECT OUR SHARE OF THE BANK LOOT--BUT IT WAS WORTH IT!

LOOT?! THEN THAT'S STOLEN MONEY!

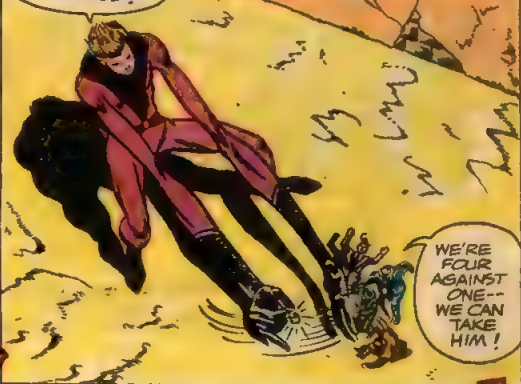
THAT STOLEN MONEY'S GOING BACK
WHERE IT CAME FROM--YOU CAN
BANK ON THAT!



THE **ELONGATED MAN**! I'VE HEARD
PLENTY ABOUT
HIM--**ALL BAD!**

DON'T
LET HIS
REP
SCARE
YOU! WE'LL
TIE HIM
UP IN
KNOTS!

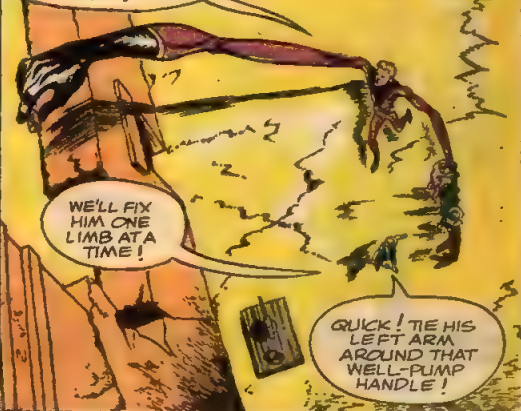
THAT'S A LOT OF
KNOT-ING, AS FAR
AS I'M CON-
CERNED!



FIRST OFF--I'LL PUT THE
LOOT OUT OF YOUR REACH!

WE'RE
FOUR
AGAINST
ONE--
WE CAN
TAKE
HIM!

EVEN A LADDER WON'T
LET YOU GO THIS
HIGH!



WE'LL FIX
HIM ONE
LIMB AT A
TIME!

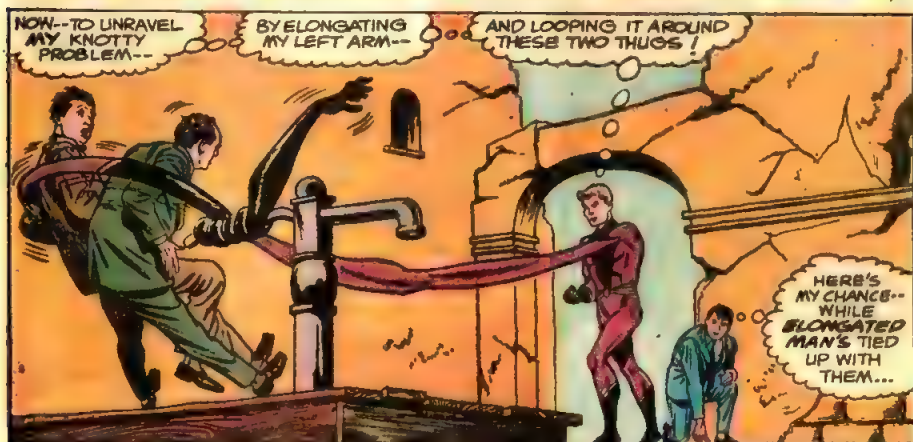
QUICK! TIE HIS
LEFT ARM
AROUND THAT
WELL-PUMP
HANDLE!



NOW TIE HIS
ARM IN A
KNOT!

WHAT KINDA
KNOT?

BOW KNOT, SLIP KNOT, HITCH KNOT--
WHO CARES? JUST SNAP IT ON
HIM!



AS THE LOOPED-AROUND DUO TRIES TO RUN OFF...

THA-KLUNK!

**SNAP
BACK
HERE!**



BUT THEN--THE DUCTILE DETECTIVE HIMSELF FALLS VICTIM TO A SURPRISE ATTACK...

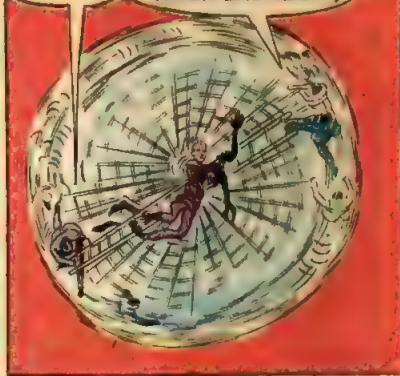
**WE'LL USE THIS
LADDER TO
TRIP HIM UP!**

**YEAH! ONCE WE CAN TANGLE
HIM IN IT, HE WON'T MOVE
AROUND SO EASY!**



**RUN IN A
CIRCLE!**

**WE'LL GET HIM SO MIXED
UP, HE WON'T KNOW
WHICH END IS UP!**



**KEEP
PUNCHIN'
AWAY!**

**HE'S IN NO POSITION TO
STRIKE BACK!**

THUNK! SWOK!

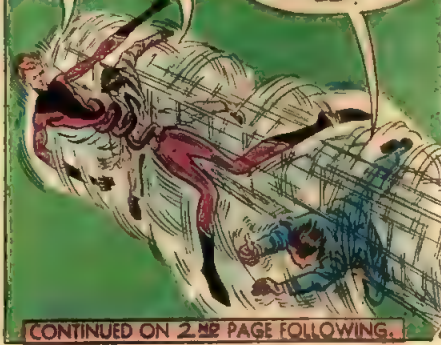


THEN, A MASTERPIECE OF MANEUVERABILITY...

**TIME TO
UNWIND!**

**HEY! I'M
TRAPPED!**

**ME, TOO! OUR
WEAPONS
BACKFIRED ON
US!**



CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

**REMEMBER
THIS BOY?**

**REMEMBER
HIS VOW AT
HIS PARENTS'
GRAVE?**

I SWEAR I'LL DEDICATE
MY LIFE AND INHERITANCE
TO BRINGING YOUR
KILLER TO JUSTICE...
AND TO FIGHTING ALL
CRIMINALS! I SWEAR
IT!

WAYNE
THOMAS MARTHA
BORN 1939 DIED 1941
DIED 1941 DIED 1941
DIED 1941 DIED 1941



NOW

FROM THE

**GOLDEN
AGE OF COMICS**

COMES THE
STORY OF HOW
BRUCE WAYNE
FULFILLED THAT
BOYHOOD VOW..

**AS
BATMAN!**

Also IN THIS
FABULOUS
**All-Villain
ISSUE...**

The **Joker** in
"The **CRIMES**
of **BATMAN!**"

The **Catwoman**
in
"The **JUNGLE**
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CODE
AUTHORITY

BATMAN

ALSO IN THIS
**SPECIAL
ALL-VILLAIN
ISSUE:**



REMEMBER?
THIS IS THE MOMENT
THAT CHANGED MY
LIFE!



ON SALE NOV 14TH

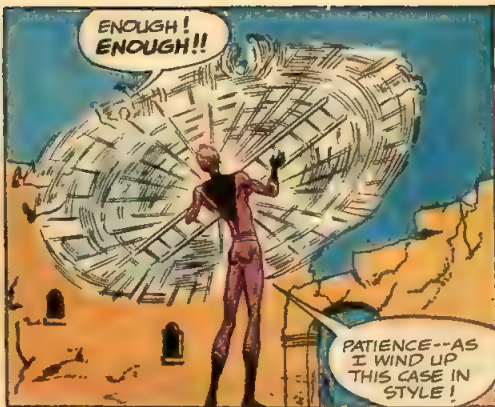
UPWARD INTO THE AIR RISES THE **STRETCH-ABLE SLEUTH**--CARRYING THE CRIMINALS WITH HIM...

LET US
DOWN!

STOP!

NOT TILL I
GIVE YOU A
RIDE ON MY
LADDER-
GO-
ROUND!

HANG
ON!



ENOUGH!
ENOUGH!!

PATIENCE--AS
I WIND UP
THIS CASE IN
STYLE!

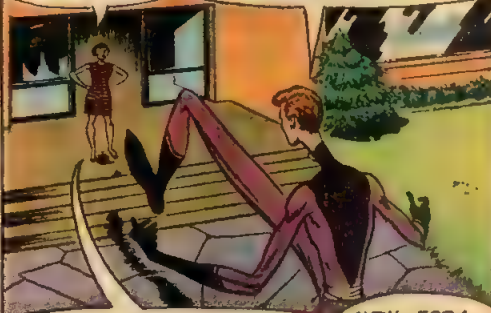


NOW--RIDE'S
OVER!

AFTER DEPOSITING HIS CAPTIVES, AND THEIR LOOT WITH THE LOCAL POLICE, THE **DUCTILE DETECTIVE** JOINS HIS WIFE AT THE HOSPITAL...

WELL, RALPH?
DID YOU SOLVE
YOUR MYSTERY?

NOT YET! I'M HOPING THE
MAN YOU DROVE TO THE
HOSPITAL WILL CLEAR UP--



THERE'S NO NEED TO SEE HIM!
WHILE I WAS DRIVING HIM INTO
TOWN HE CAME TO--AND
REVEALED THE WHOLE
STORY!

NOW--FOR A
SWITCH--I'M
GOING TO
EXPLAIN THE
MYSTERY TO
YOU!

HIS NAME IS JOHNNY ADAMS! TEN YEARS AGO HE WAS THE HEAD OF A GANG WHO ROBBED A BANK OF \$100,000! HIS SHARE WAS 40,000---LEAVING 60,000 TO BE DIVIDED AMONG THE OTHER FOUR CROOKS!



HOWEVER, ADAMS WAS CAPTURED AND SENT TO PRISON, WHERE HE RESOLVED TO GO STRAIGHT!

TURNING OVER THE \$100,000 TO THE AUTHORITIES, HE CAME HERE TO MISSION COUNTRY AFTER SERVING HIS SENTENCE! HE BEGAN A NEW LIFE---PROSPERED---AND GREW RICH!



SOME DAYS AGO HIS OLD GANG TRACED HIM HERE, DEMANDING THEIR SHARE OF THE LOOT! TO KEEP THEM FROM REVEALING HE WAS AN EX-CONVICT, HE AGREED TO PAY THEM OUT OF HIS OWN POCKET!

UPON HIDING THE MONEY IN THE MISSION RUINS, HE SIGNALLED HIS EX-GANG BY RINGING THE MISSION BELL THREE TIMES!



NOT KNOWING THERE WAS NO PULL ROPE, HE HAD TO GET A LADDER AND HAMMER! HE SLIPPED AND FELL AFTER RINGING THE BELL --

WHEREUPON YOU AND YOUR TWITCHY NOSE ENTERED THE PICTURE! AND IT'S A GLOOMY PICTURE FOR THE FOUR MEN YOU CAPTURED-- THEY'LL SERVE TIME FOR THE ROBBERY JUST AS JOHNNY ADAMS DID!

The End

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SHOWCASE

presents the

TOP GUNS

of the OLD WEST

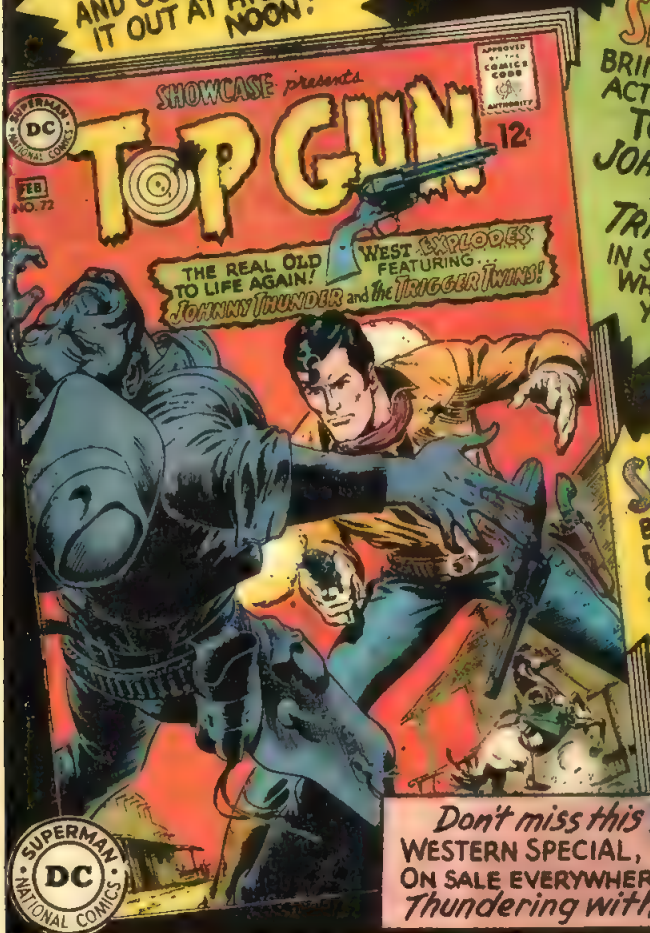
JOHNNY THUNDER

AND THE

TRIGGER TWINS!

SHOWCASE

BRINGS YOU
BLAZING ACTION AS
TOP GUN LAWMEN
AND OUTLAWS SHOOT
IT OUT AT HIGH
NOON!



SHOWCASE

BRINGS BACK SEARING
ACTION FEATURING
TOP GUNS
JOHNNY THUNDER
AND THE
TRIGGER TWINS
IN SIZZLING STORIES
WHICH WILL BRAND
YOUR HEART!

SHOWCASE

BRINGS YOU SUDDEN
DEATH AS MEN LIVE
OR DIE TO PROVE
THEMSELVES THE
TOP GUNS
OF THE WEST!

Don't miss this **SHOWCASE**
WESTERN SPECIAL, No. 72, JAN-FEB.--
ON SALE EVERYWHERE NOV. 28, 1967--
Thundering with TOP GUNS!

DIRECT CURRENTS

Well, here we are again with the current crop of coming attractions from DC. Before launching into our previews, we just want to remind you to keep sending in gag ideas for our **DIG WHAT'S COMING** cartoons—and new titles, too, if you can dream 'em up. For every one that's used we'll award \$5 and—if it's a gag—the original art.

Suppose you inherited a fortune. . .with the proviso that you spend a **MILLION DOLLARS** in 24 HOURS? Think it sounds easy? Then see the problems **JIMMY OLSEN** has when he tries to squander a million as "THE MIDA\$ OF METROPOLIS," in his **January** issue, **No. 108!** Plus a Hall of Fame Classic, "THE BOY SWORDSMAN!" On sale Nov. 23.

BATMAN'S very life depended on his finding a copy of his own magazine, **BATMAN COMICS**—but every single copy was **SOLD OUT!** Don't YOU be caught short that way when the **February** issue, **No. 199**, hits the newsstands on Dec. 5—featuring "PERIL OF THE POISON RINGS!" Better reserve your copy NOW!



Picture the **FASTEST MAN ON EARTH** pursued by a foe not even HE can possibly outrun! Picture the **SCARLET SPEEDSTER** battling an antagonist no mortal can possibly defeat! It's all for REAL when "DEATH STALKS THE FLASH!" **SULTAN OF SPEED** versus **GRIM REAPER** is the match in the **February** issue, **No. 176**, on sale Dec. 5!

The ominous word shocks the world! **THE DOOM PATROL** has split up! No longer are the fabulous freaks a triumphant team! But as they desert the nest, a sinister shadow looms over the sole remaining figure—**THE CHIEF**—who's pinpointed as the prey of "THE **BLACK VULTURE!**" **February**, **No. 117**, on sale Dec. 5.

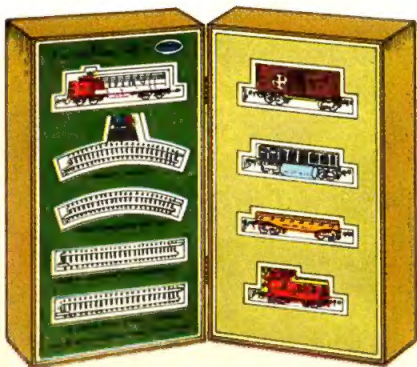
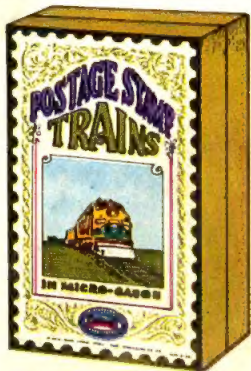
SGT. ROCK of **EASY COMPANY** finds himself battling the Nazi terror alongside the French teenage underground fighters of **UNIT 3** in the action-filled, unforgettable bombshell entitled—"THE MISSION WAS MURDER!" You'll find this thrill-packed battle tale in the **February OUR ARMY AT WAR**, **No. 189**, on sale Dec. 5!

Seeking a doctor to cure **TAD'S** square personality, **BOB HOPE** lands in deepest Africa! And traipsing the laughter trail with him are that un-jolly green giant, **FRANKLIN STEIN**, and the rest of the fearsome faculty of **BENEDICT ARNOLD HIGH**. It's "IS THERE A WITCH-DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE?" **March**, **No. 109**, on sale Dec. 7.

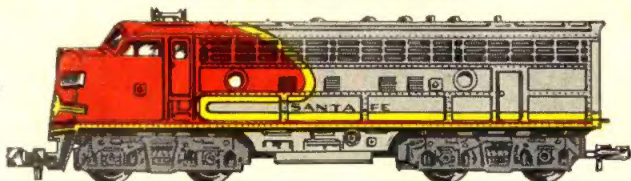
A LOIS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE!



MAD
AND
MAD
WATCH
OUT FOR
HER!



*Have you heard about the new electric trains
that come in a book?*



*They're so small—and so
beautiful—we call them*

ACTUAL SIZE

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*If you wanted to, you could
build a whole railroad
empire on top of a bridge
table. Then, when you're
finished playing with them,
you put them back in their
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complete Postage Stamp
Train sets and all kinds of
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